Students from the Year 9 Advisory class recently held a fundraiser in support of the Salvos ‘Red Shield Appeal’.

The Year 9 Advisory Team organised a Cupcake Day with students baking and decorating cupcakes along with organising activities at lunchtime. Year 9 Advisory Leader, Ms. Sangeeta Vashishta, said, “The students did a great job at organising the event. They suggested the project they wanted to assist with and organised the whole event from budgeting, cooking and organising lunchtime activities for the other students.”

Principal, Barbara O’Brien said, “We introduced our Year 9 Advisory Program in 2013 as we specifically wanted to target and reengage our Year 9 students. We are very impressed to date with the program. Students are more settled and focussed and are really enjoying working on their community projects.”

The Year 9 Advisory Program is an Inquiry-based learning program where students explore aspects of Humanities and Science domains. The Humanities area incorporates History, Geography, Economics, Civics and Citizenship and the Science part incorporates Biological Science, Chemical Science, Earth and Space and Physical Science. Students also complete two Research Projects in which students identify and research questions to develop their knowledge and obtain and explain evidence to support questions. Then they present their Research Projects using new ICT skills to their parents and teachers.

Year 9 Advisory students also have the opportunity to be involved in the wider community through a variety of Community Projects offered in Advisory, such as Recycling/Sustainability project, Reading and Numeracy Program for Primary students, School Vegetable Garden, Alkoomi Retirement Village and the Salvation Army.

Another big focus in Benalla P-12 College’s Year 9 Advisory Program is their intensive career program. All students are involved in an intensive, personalised careers program and develop a portfolio which includes their achievements, skills and future goals. Students take part in a mock job interview as part of this program.

This year a new program was introduced in Year 9 Advisory called the ‘Future Makers Program’, to develop an understanding of the Murray Darling Basin by investigating the impacts agriculture and urbanisation has on the ecosystem. 12 days of the program were conducted at Outdoor School (15 Mile Creek). Students lived on site at 15 Mile Creek and completed a 5 day Journey in the middle of their stay.

Abby Martin, a Year 9 Advisory student said, “What I like about the Year 9 Advisory Program is the new facilities and having our own Year 9 building. I also like the mix of Humanities and Science together. I really enjoyed the Future Maker Camp that was for 2 weeks at 15 Mile Creek, which was on teaching leadership skills and team bonding. We went on a 5 day hike (including over the weekend) to Lake William Hovell where we canoed and white water sledded.”

Student Evan Dowe said, “What I like about the Year 9 Advisory Program is that this year I got to go to the Alpine Leadership School for Term 1 for 7 weeks. It was a good opportunity and taught me how to build up leadership skills. It was designed around 7 categories on leadership and I had to present to the other students. There was a lot of team work. It taught us skills to manage conflict. We had to keep a journal and write in it daily and we had some night classes as well. It was also fun hiking to Mt. Feathertop. I have become more confident in public speaking and also made some good friends that I still liaise with. I would recommend this to other students to do.”
Student Hannah Ely said, “What I like most about the Year 9 Advisory Program is doing career portfolios. Recently we worked on a project ‘Jobs in Benalla’ where we had to apply for a job and write an application letter. Then we had a mock interview with panel members, getting us ready for a career.”